

**CITY OF BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES of the MEETING of BARNWELL CITY COUNCIL  
January 8, 2024 – 5:30PM**

**MEETING LOCATION:  
130 Main Street, Barnwell, SC 29812**

Barnwell City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Still presiding.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Ron Still and Councilmembers Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis, Wanda Highsmith, Peggy Kinlaw, and Jana Myers

Councilmembers Absent: None

Others Present: City Administrator Lynn McEwen, City Attorney Thomas Boulware, Clerk & Treasurer Kim Marie Vargo. Interim Police Chief Robert Miller, Fire Chief Phillip Delk, and Public Works Director Philip Stanley

Ms. Alexandra Whitbeck of the People Sentinel was also present.

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW MAYOR AND NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

City Attorney Thomas Boulware administered the oath of office to Ron Still-Mayor, Peggy Kinlaw- City Council District 2, Wanda Highsmith-City Council District 4, and Jana Myers-City Council District 6.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Still called the meeting to order. Pastor Mickey Joyner from Browns Chapel led in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CIVILITY PLEDGE**

Council led the pledge of allegiance and the civility pledge.

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## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

County Councilmember Ben Kinlaw, Executive Director of Keep Barnwell Beautiful, said it was important to keep the roadsides clean to attract new residents and industry. He is working with SCDOT to get volunteers to help adopt highways and he will also be focusing on Lake Brown. He encouraged City Council members to get involved.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2023, REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Kinlaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023, regular scheduled City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor and unanimously approved.

## **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM**

Councilmember Claytor nominated Councilmember Kinlaw and the nomination was seconded by Councilmember Kinlaw. Councilmember Highsmith nominated Councilmember Davis and the nomination was seconded by Councilmember Myers. There were no other nominations.

Mayor Still called for a vote to elect Councilmember Kinlaw as Mayor Pro Tem. The vote was 3 to 3. Mayor Still, Councilmember Claytor, and Councilmember Kinlaw voted for the nomination. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Highsmith, and Councilmember Myers voted against the nomination.

Mayor Still called for a vote to elect Councilmember Davis as Mayor Pro Tem. The vote was 3 to 3. Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Highsmith, and Councilmember Myers voted for the nomination. Mayor Still, Councilmember Claytor, and Councilmember Kinlaw voted against the nomination.

Mayor Still said that since both votes ended in a tie, the procedure will have to be revisited after the election for the vacant Council seat. Councilmember Kinlaw will continue to serve as Mayor Pro Tem until then.

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**APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO THE COUNTY CAPITAL SALES TAX COMMITTEE**

Mayor Still made a motion to appoint Jimbo Moody as the City representative to the County Capital Sales Tax Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Claytor. Councilmember Davis asked who was on the committee before. Administrator McEwen said it was a councilmember, but the County is discouraging having councilmembers serve on the committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR DISTRICT 1**

Administrator McEwen explained that the dates for the election are set by the Election Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw made a motion to accept the dates. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers and unanimously approved. The election date will be April 2, 2024.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-01 "AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF BARNWELL TO CONVEY TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF \$200.00 AND BY GENERAL WARRANTY DEED OF CONVEYANCE THE PROPERTY SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE "A" AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A GENERAL WARRANTY DEED OF CONVEYANCE**

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw and unanimously approved. Administrator McEwen read the ordinance by title only. Councilmember Claytor made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2024-01. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

**UPDATING COUNCIL COMMITTEES BY MAYOR**

Mayor Still made the following appointments:

Water & Sewer – Louis Claytor, Alicia Davis  
Sanitation & Streets – Alicia Davis, Wanda Highsmith  
Parks, Recreation, and Tourism – Jana Myers, Wanda Highsmith  
Police – Peggy Kinlaw, Louis Claytor  
Fire – Louis Claytor, Jana Myers  
Finance & Salary – Alicia Davis, Peggy Kinlaw  
Building & Planning – Peggy Kinlaw, Wanda Highsmith

Mayor Still said that there will be changes after the April election for District 1.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Water and Sewer (Councilmembers Claytor & Davis) – No Report

Sanitation and Streets (Councilmembers Davis & Highsmith) – No Report

Parks, Recreation and Tourism (Councilmembers Myers & Highsmith) – Basketball registration has closed. Coaches are needed.

Police (Mayor Pro Tem Kinlaw & Councilmember Claytor) – No Report

Fire (Councilmember Bragg) – Fire Chief Phillip Delk gave a report on December activity.

Finance and Salary (Councilmembers Bragg and Davis) – No Report

Building and Planning (Councilmember Still) – No Report

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

- The part needed for the Joey Zorn Well has been installed and they are working on some small issues.
- Move in date for the new fire station is scheduled for early June. Several additions including load voltage and a back porch will be looked at this week to see how they will affect the budget.
- We received bids for the pumper truck. They came in over budget, so we are discussing it with the SC Department of Commerce to see if there is anything else they can do.
- Received notice from Palmetto Pride that we were awarded a \$10,000 Litter Crew Grant.
- Dates to remember:  
RFQ's for Fuller Park will be opened Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00  
Council Training Session will be held Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00  
We may have final interviews for police chief on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL STATEMENTS**

Mayor Still and Council were given the opportunity to make comments.

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**ADJOURN**

Councilmember Claytor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:

  
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Kim Marie Vargo, Clerk & Treasurer

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